



*Presented By*  
**Town of Ocean City**

REPORTING YEAR 2018

# ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

## Our Mission Continues

We are once again pleased to present our annual water quality report covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2018. Over the years, we have dedicated ourselves to producing drinking water that meets all state and federal standards. We continually strive to adopt new methods for delivering the best-quality drinking water to you. As new challenges to drinking water safety emerge, we remain vigilant in meeting the goals of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all our water users.

## Where Does My Water Come From?

The Town of Ocean City Water Department customers are fortunate because they enjoy an abundant water supply from two underground aquifers. The twenty-two wells that draw from these aquifers range in depth from 200 feet to more than 400 feet.

## Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, those who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by

*Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.



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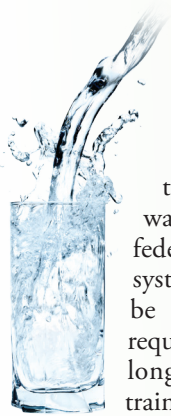
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## Community Participation

Council meetings are normally held on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month beginning at 6 p.m. Council work sessions are usually held at noon on the Tuesday before the council meeting. Both meetings are normally held in the council chambers at City Hall, Third Street and Baltimore Avenue. Any members of the public who wish to attend are encouraged to call (410) 289-8221 to verify the meeting time and place.

## Count on Us



Delivering high-quality drinking water to our customers involves far more than just pushing water through pipes. Water treatment is a complex, time-consuming process. Because tap water is highly regulated by state and federal laws, water treatment plant and system operators must be licensed and are required to commit to long-term, on-the-job training before becoming fully qualified. Our

licensed water professionals have a basic understanding of a wide range of subjects, including mathematics, biology, chemistry, and physics. Some of the tasks they complete on a regular basis include:

- Operating and maintaining equipment to purify and clarify water;
- Monitoring and inspecting machinery, meters, gauges, and operating conditions;
- Conducting tests and inspections on water and evaluating the results;
- Maintaining optimal water chemistry;
- Applying data to formulas that determine treatment requirements, flow levels, and concentration levels;
- Documenting and reporting test results and system operations to regulatory agencies; and
- Serving our community through customer support, education, and outreach.

So, the next time you turn on your faucet, think of the skilled professionals who stand behind each drop.

We remain vigilant in delivering the best-quality drinking water

## Source Water Assessment

The Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) Water Supply Program has conducted a Source Water Assessment for the Town of Ocean City. The major components of this report as described in the Maryland Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP) are (1) delineation of an area that contributes water to the source and (2) identification of potential sources of contamination.

Recommendations for management of the assessment area conclude the report. The MDE Water Supply Program delineated the source water assessment using methods approved by the U.S. EPA. Potential sources of contamination within the assessment area were identified based on MDE site visits and a review of MDE databases. Well information and water quality data were also reviewed. A map showing the source water assessment areas and potential sources was enclosed.

The susceptibility analysis for the Ocean City water supply is based on a review of the water-quality data, potential sources of contamination, aquifer characteristics, and well integrity. It was determined that the Ocean City water supply is not susceptible to contaminants originating at the surface due to the protected nature of the confined aquifers. The water supply is susceptible to naturally occurring iron in the aquifers, chlorides due to saltwater intrusion, and trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids, which are disinfection by-products.

## QUESTIONS?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Howard Iman, Water Department Superintendent, at (410) 524-8388.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals, in some cases, radioactive material, and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances that may be present in source water include:

Microbial Contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, or wildlife;

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming;

Pesticides and Herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses;

Organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems;

Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.



Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule. And the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we show only those substances that were detected in our water. (A complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request.) Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.

The state recommends monitoring for certain substances less often than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

We participated in the 4th stage of the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR4) program by performing additional tests on our drinking water. UCMR4 sampling benefits the environment and public health by providing the EPA with data on the occurrence of contaminants suspected to be in drinking water, in order to determine if the EPA needs to introduce new regulatory standards to improve drinking water quality. Unregulated contaminant monitoring data are available to the public, so please feel free to contact us if you are interested in obtaining that information. If you would like more information on the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule, please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES									
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE		
Barium (ppm)	2015	2	2	0.025	0.017–0.025	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits		
Beta/Photon Emitters <sup>1</sup> (pCi/L)	2018	50	0	7.1	7.1–7.1	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits		
Chlorine (ppm)	2018	[4]	[4]	0.8	0.5–0.8	No	Water additive used to control microbes		
Halooacetic Acids [HAA5] (ppb)	2018	60	NA	13	1.4–19.3	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection		
TTTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2018	80	NA	46	27.2–68.7	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection	Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community.	
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH%TILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE	Copper (ppm)	Lead (ppb)
	2018	1.3	1.3	0.14	0/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits		
	2018	15	0	6	1/30	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits		

<sup>1</sup> The MCL for beta particles is 4 mrem/year. The U.S. EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.

Lead in Home Plumbing

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. We are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but we cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).



What's Your Water Footprint?

You may have some understanding about your carbon footprint, but how much do you know about your water footprint? The water footprint of an individual, community, or business is defined as the total volume of freshwater that is used to produce the goods and services that are consumed by the individual or community or produced by the business. For example, 11 gallons of water are needed to irrigate and wash the fruit in one half-gallon container of orange juice. Thirty-seven gallons of water are used to grow, produce, package, and ship the beans in that morning cup of coffee. Two hundred and sixty-four gallons of water are required to produce one quart of milk, and 4,200 gallons of water are required to produce two pounds of beef.

According to the U.S. EPA, the average American uses over 180 gallons of water daily. In fact, in the devoped world, one flush of a toilet uses as much water as the average person in the developing world allocates for an entire day's cooking, washing, cleaning, and drinking. The annual American per capita water footprint is about 8,000 cubic feet, twice the global per capita average. With water use increasing six-fold in the past century, our demands for freshwater are rapidly outstripping what the planet can replenish.

To check out your own water footprint, go to <http://goo.gl/QMoIXT>.

Table Talk

Get the most out of the Testing Results data table with this simple suggestion. In less than a minute, you will know all there is to know about your water:

For each substance listed, compare the value in the Amount Detected column against the value in the MCL (or AL, SMCL) column. If the Amount Detected value is smaller, your water meets the health and safety standards set for the substance.

Other Table Information Worth Noting

Verify that there were no violations of the state and/or federal standards in the Violation column. If there was a violation, you will see a detailed description of the event in this report. If there is an ND or a less-than symbol (<), that means that the substance was not detected (i.e., below the detectable limits of the testing equipment).

The Range column displays the lowest and highest sample readings. If there is an NA showing, that means only a single sample was taken to test for the substance (assuming there is a reported value in the Amount Detected column).

If there is sufficient evidence to indicate from where the substance originates, it will be listed under Typical Source.

BY THE NUMBERS



**800 TRILLION**  
The number of Olympic-sized swimming pools it would take to fill up all of Earth's water.

**1 CENT**  
The average cost for about 5 gallons of water supplied to a home in the U.S.

**99%**  
The amount of Earth's water that is salty or otherwise undrinkable, or locked away and unavailable in ice caps and glaciers.

**50 GALLONS**  
The average daily number of gallons of total home water use for each person in the U.S.

**71%**  
The amount of Earth's surface that's covered by water.

**330 MILLION**  
The amount of water on Earth in cubic miles.

**1%**  
The amount of Earth's water that is available for all of humanity's needs.

**75%**  
The amount of the human brain that contains water.